

*SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS*

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6 with:

The present invention relates to an inverter device capable of reducing ~~a through-type~~ current generated when two series connected switching elements that are on/off controlled.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 11 with:

An inverter device is used as, for example, a driving device for a three-phase motor. The inverter device used as the three-phase motor driving device includes an output circuit. This output circuit ~~is constituted in such a manner that includes~~ pairs of switching elements to which fly-wheel diodes are connected, respectively, ~~are connected~~ in series between the positive electrode terminal and the negative electrode terminal (ground terminal) of a direct-current (DC) power supply and the pairs of switching elements are connected in parallel for the three phases. An output to a motor is fetched from the connection end between each pair of switching elements connected in series (see, for example, Kuniaki Makabe, Control Circuit Design for Stepping Motor, (CQ Publishing Co., Ltd., pp. 35 to 118)).

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 23 with:

The output circuit of the inverter device is controlled according to pulse width modulation (PWM) method. Namely, the output circuit is controlled so that each of pairs of switching elements connected in series are alternately turned on and off, the ON/OFF operation time-ratio of the pair is changed to thereby change the magnitudes of the output voltages thereof, and that the combinations of the pairs ~~to be~~ turned on and off are changed to thereby change the polarities of the output voltages ~~thereof~~.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 15 with:

However, a regenerative current generated by the energy accumulated by the inductance of the motor flows, while being attenuated, in the same direction as ~~that of~~ the motor driving current is carried to the fly-wheel diode connected to the switching element of the upper arm. The switching element of the lower arm is then turned on, and the motor driving current in the same direction is carried to the switching element of the lower arm. The fly-wheel diode of the upper arm is applied with a backward voltage and turned off.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 23 with:

The conventional technology has the following disadvantages. During the operation process, when the fly-wheel diode of the upper arm is turned off in response to the ON operation of the switching element of the lower arm, a backward current (backward recovery current) is carried to the fly-wheel diode of the upper arm for the time that is specified by backward recovery characteristic of the diode. For that reason, a ~~state of the~~ short-circuit between the positive electrode terminal and the negative electrode terminal of the DC power supply occurs, though momentarily, in which ~~state~~ a ~~through-type~~ current flows. This backward recovery current carried to the fly-wheel diode of the upper arm becomes ~~considerably~~ excessive if the switching speed of the switching element of the lower arm is high, thereby disadvantageously making circuit operation unstable.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 6 with:

Fig. 3 is a circuit diagram of the output circuit in the inverter device ~~at to~~ which the present invention is ~~intended~~ directed; and